

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS



Newsletter of the N.H. Department of Environmental Services

July/August 2005

Governor's Message

As I write this, we are nearing the end of the legislative session – one where we have made significant progress on key environmental issues.

In the past year, we've seen increasing public debate about the burning of construction and demolition debris – and an increasing number of requests for permits to establish C&D facilities in New Hampshire.

With the passage of House Bill 517, we will have a year to plan and establish appropriate regulations to ensure that we do not become the Northeast dumping ground for this waste. I also soon will be signing legislation that will require the use of the best available control technology, and a bill to study alternatives to the burning of construction and demolition debris.



Governor Lynch

In the coming weeks, I will sign a bill that establishes a commission to study the Comprehensive Shoreline Protection Act. This bill creates a commission with broad stakeholder participation to examine the effectiveness and deficiencies of the current Shoreline Protection Act and make recommendations for improving the law. Creating a long-term strategy for protecting New Hampshire's lakes is one of my priorities and this study will yield impor-

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Zebra mussel scare at Lake Winnepesaukee marina

Quick detection by marina staff prevented lake exposure

DES confirmed recently that non-native and nuisance zebra mussels were detected on a boat at Fay's Boat Yard in Gilford. Detection by the marina staff prior to launching the boat prevented the zebra mussels from entering Lake Winnepesaukee. The boat had come from one of the Great Lakes.

"Zebra mussels can cause tremendous problems," noted Amy Smagula, DES Exotic Species Program Coordinator. "They colonize rapidly and foul docks, clog water intake pipes from lakes, clog and impair marine engine cooling systems, and change the chemistry, biology, and ecology of freshwater aquatic systems."

Mussels, continued on page 8



Zebra mussels, which are only about the size of a pistachio nut, rapidly reproduce, forming dense layered colonies. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates the potential economic impact at \$5 billion over the next ten years to U.S. and Canadian water users within the Great Lakes region alone. Source: USGS Great Lakes Science Center.

Commissioner's Column

Helping to make your summer healthier and safer

Ah summer ... the Fourth of July, trips to the beach and lake, fun in the sun. Summer in New Hampshire is a special time of year that we all enjoy. It is probably because we all appreciate how quickly the seasons change. Nevertheless, summertime can bring along with it some unique and challenging environmental issues.

For instance, we forget the hot, hazy days that are a distant memory when the mercury is below zero in winter, can actually pose a threat to many people's health. On average, New Hampshire has about 10 days each summer when the air quality is considered unhealthy. On these days, DES declares an Air Quality Action Day, and people are encouraged to take precautionary measures to protect themselves, as well as to take actions to reduce air pollution. To protect your

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Hands-on look at air monitoring. On June 8, Air Division staff hosted an educational program atop Pack Monadnock Mountain near Peterborough for approximately 100 eighth-grade students and teachers from the Jaffrey/Rindge Middle School. The students learned how air pollution is monitored at that site, viewed the newly-installed air quality message board, and learned about sources of air pollution and its health effects. Students were also allowed to climb the fire tower at the summit and speak with the tower operator to gain a new perspective on the relationship between air quality and visibility. Students also had a chance to learn first-hand about hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Environmental News is published six times a year by the N.H. Department of Environmental Services.

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Governor's Message

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tant recommendations as one part of that strategy.

Protecting our groundwater is another high profile issue that is critical to our state's future. HB 69 allows us to make real progress in providing information to communities in a timely way on large groundwater withdrawals and ensuring that the public has significant opportunities to voice their opinions.

As the State undertakes a number of initiatives to study the regulation of our groundwater resources, we should not forget the likely passage of HB 215.

This legislation will require first time water users to register and report

water withdrawals over 20,000 gallons a day. While this bill won't impact municipal water suppliers (who are already required to report their water usage), it will enable the collection of more of the information we need to determine the actual demands on our water resources so that future state policy is based on good data and sound science.

While we still have work to do, I believe we have made good progress this year. I look forward to partnering with the staff at the Department of Environmental Services to implement these changes and to ensure that we preserve all that is special about New Hampshire for the future.

John Lynch, *Governor*

Summer

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health, limit your outdoor physical activities. Even if you're in "excellent" health, exposure to "smog" carries long-term health risks, particularly to the lungs. To protect the environment from greater harm on these days, we urge you to limit your driving and use less electricity to reduce harmful air emissions, and conserve water, which evaporates quickly in hot weather. Check on-line daily for current air quality information at www.airquality.nh.gov, or call (800) 935-SMOG.

Swimming at the beach, lake or pool is another summertime activity that most of us enjoy. For over 20 years, DES's Beach and Pool Inspection Program has monitored public swimming areas for potential health threats associated with water-borne pathogens. This inspection program covers both inland and coastal beaches, as well as public pools and spas. The latest beach advisories can be found at www.des.nh.gov/Beaches/index.asp. DES also inspects summer youth camps to ensure a healthy experience

for youngsters.

Boating, too, is a popular summer pastime in New Hampshire. DES strives to keep our lakes, ponds and rivers clean, but individual boaters are partners in this critical endeavor. Specifically, boaters can make sure they don't carry invasive aquatic species, like milfoil and zebra mussels, from one waterbody to another; they can use pumpout stations to empty marine toilets; they can refuel portable gasoline tanks on land or use newer, four-stroke marine engines to keep gasoline and MtBE out of our lakes; and they can use best management practices to clean their boats in the least environmentally harmful way.

As the use of New Hampshire's inland and coastal waters grows, the continued goal of our programs is to protect public health and inform the public of potential health risks.

Summer is meant to be a fun and wonderful time of year. With some common sense and a little awareness of the environment around us, we will all enjoy a safe and happy summer.

Michael P. Nolin, *Commissioner*

The Hampton-Seabrook Harbor dredging project

By Frank D. Richardson, Ph.D., DES
Coastal Region Supervisor

One hundred years ago, the world's longest wooden bridge carried people over the tidal river and mud flats from Hampton, N.H. to Salisbury, Mass. across its one mile span. On Woodstock Street, which lies three streets inland of the harbor inlet southerly of the much shorter Rte 1A bridge in place today, you will find a State of New Hampshire historic marker for Bound Rock that used to lie in the Hampton River and was the 17th century boundary between New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The rock was rediscovered by a survey crew in 1939. The rock has never moved. The little piece of land on which it now resides, located between two houses, was once inundated twice daily by the tides.

The Hampton-Seabrook Harbor estuarine system is indeed dynamic and today changes in the course of tidal rivers, and the subsequent erosion, deposition and transport of sediments is an ongoing process. These natural processes have been influenced by activities such as highway construction and bridge building. As the harbor system developed, anchorages and marinas were constructed, navigational channels were dredged and a large barge docking facility, now known as the Seabrook Fisherman's Co-op, was constructed to bring the reactor into Seabrook Station. Maintenance dredging has become a necessity to keep the harbor open and functioning.

From 1995 to 1998, while doing overflights for aerial photography I noticed that the Blackwater River was apparently shifting its course due to shoaling near the confluence with the Hampton River in the middle of the harbor. This resulted in the Blackwater River forming a new flow path across the Middle Ground clam flats parallel to River Street in Seabrook. This new flow path was rapidly eroding the clam flats and depositing the sediments directly into the Seabrook Harbor anchorage. DES requested authorization from the US Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the shoal in 1998, but since this area was outside the approved maintenance dredging area, the state had to first conduct a hydrodynamic study of the harbor. This study took four years and cost \$400,000. By the time the study was completed and the Corps of Engineers committed to assisting the state in finding a solution to stopping the erosion and saving the clam flats, the new flow path had become a 300-foot wide, 20-foot deep channel. The Blackwater River had changed its course and was now undermining seawalls along River Street.



In 2003, the Corps of Engineers authorized the implementation of a Section 227 project for Hampton-Seabrook Harbor. By this time, the scope of work necessary to realign the Blackwater River back to its former channel had far eclipsed the dredging solution requested back in 1998. The solution proposed was to truncate the new erosional channel, now known as the River Street Cut, by constructing massive sheet pile bulkheads at both ends of the Cut and then filling the area between the two bulkheads with dredged materials from the original Blackwater River channel.

It was estimated that the volume of dredged materials needed to fill the Cut between the bulkheads was 74,000 cubic yards. However, in order to reestablish a new channel for the Blackwater River, 86,000 cubic yards of coarse sand needed to be removed. The hydraulic dredging started in December 2004 after a 998-foot long 15-foot wide double-walled sheet pile bulkhead, the West wall, was constructed next to the Blackwater River channel and a similar 548-foot long bulkhead, the East wall, was installed adjacent to the Seabrook Harbor anchorage. The cooperation of the Corps of Engineers, the marine contractor, DES and many others has resulted in a solution to a problem that will hopefully withstand the test of time and has several benefits.

Creative grading and interfacing with existing shoreline contours allowed the additional dredged materials to be used to foster the development of an intertidal salt marsh. Acres of potential clam flats have been restored. The River Street shoreline is no longer subject to the extreme erosion that had taken place there. At the westerly end of River Street, where some of the most severe erosion had taken place, Triton Marine Mattresses were installed and surcharged with sand to protect this frontage. These stone-filled 30-foot long mattresses function similarly to the wire basket gabions used in freshwater rivers, but are made of a tough plastic material and require a large crane on a barge to install. This is an innovative application and hopefully a successful alternative to using large stone rip-rap to achieve shoreline stabilization. The final cost of this massive project was \$2,919,250.

The next time you are in Seabrook and the tide is out, take a look at the largest construction project ever to take place in the harbor. However, it may be difficult to see; other than a few pilings marking the location of the walls for navigation safety, you'll hardly notice that it's there. ■

States clamp down on toxic metals in packaging

DES, in coordination with six other states' environmental agencies, recently succeeded in removing illegal packaging from store shelves around the country when it was discovered that packages for Flex-A-Min contained lead. The seven states, which were already working together through the Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse, notified NBTY Inc. in



Bohemia, N.Y. that its product violated toxics in packaging statutes in 19 states. The packages contained lead, which was used in lead solder that attached a battery

to a printed circuit board. The battery powered a blinking red light to call shoppers' attention to the package. Flex-A-Min, commonly found on retail drug and general merchandise store shelves across the United States, is a dietary supplement advertised to soothe joint pain.

Toxics in Packaging laws prohibit the intentional introduction of mercury, cadmium, lead and hexavalent chromium in packaging and create supply chain responsibility for product design and removal of these toxic heavy metals from packaging, which makes up approximately one-third of solid waste. The legislation was the result of a multi-state effort to limit the amount of toxic heavy metals entering the solid waste stream. The toxics in packaging laws, most of which were passed in the early 1990s, have been instrumental in changing industry practices and removing these persistent bioaccumulative toxins from packaging, and ultimately from entering the environment and adversely impacting public health. Most packaging manufacturers and designers are aware of it through their professional organizations. In New Hampshire, a violation could result in a penalty of \$25,000 per day per violation. The

laws were so successful in the United States that the European Union adopted the same restrictions.

NBTY, initially unaware of the toxics in packaging legislation, cooperated with state regulators to remove non-compliant packaging from store shelves across the United States. When notified of its violation in December 2004, NBTY halted further distribution of its packaging with the blinking red light and initiated an effort with its sales force, distributors, and retail customers to replace the non-compliant packaging on retail shelves. The company also posted information on its website (www.flexamin.com) to alert

customers to the problem with its packaging and the need to properly dispose of the package. Residential customers who have the package containing the printed circuit board with blinking red light can send it back to NBTY or bring it to a household hazardous waste collection day for proper disposal.

DES worked with Connecticut, Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island on the Flex-A-Min package issue. For more information on toxics in packaging legislation and the Clearinghouse, visit www.toxicsinpackaging.org. ■

DES QA Team receives EPA Merit Award

Vincent Perelli, Robert Minicucci, and the DES Quality Assurance Team were honored recently as recipients of an EPA 2005 Environmental Merit Award. "These awards are among the highest honors EPA can bestow to recognize environmental accomplishments," said Robert W. Varney, EPA regional administrator.

The team was cited for successfully developing and implementing a quality data system that is a model for state agencies across New England. The team showed outstanding leadership in promoting systematic collection and use of quality data for New Hampshire environmental programs. Vince Perelli, QA manager, and Bob Minicucci, assistant QA manager, identified a need for a system that ensured all environmental data collected and used would be scientifically defensible and would be sufficient to support the work of programs. The QA Team streamlined the process for documenting QA project plans and ensuring data quality by using model formats and standard operating procedures. By instituting a centralized, internal QA plan review and approval process, environmental projects are more likely to meet objectives and EPA plan approvals are streamlined.

In addition to Vince and Bob, team members include Rachel Rainey, Bill Hall, Andy Chapman, Tom Croteau, Vicki Whittemore, Kendall Perkins, Sharon Perkins, and Wendy Bonner. ■



Vince Perelli, Bob Minicucci, Rachel Rainey, EPA Regional Administrator Bob Varney, Sharon Perkins, and Tom Croteau. Photo by Miller Studio.

Rule change for Official List of Public Waters

by Gretchen Hamel, Administrator, DES Legal Unit

DES is adopting rules to establish the procedures for adding or removing surface waters from the Official List of Public Waters (OLPW). The rules, Env-Wr 900, identify the various statutes and New Hampshire Supreme Court decisions under which surface waters might be deemed to be public waters, and establish the process by which a person can petition DES to add a surface water to the OLPW or remove a listed water from the OLPW. The rules also identify the sources of information that will be used when reviewing such petitions.

Once the rules are in place, DES will revise the existing OLPW so as to replace the current designations (e.g., NL (natural lake), RD (natural lake raised by damming), AI (artificial impoundment), etc.) with an indication of which statute or decision is the basis for listing each surface water that is included.

RSA 271:20, II requires DES to "prepare, maintain, and publish an official list of all public waters in the state." The statute also requires the DES Commissioner to "adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to this publication." While DES has been publishing the list since 1990, no rules had been adopted. DES staff from several different programs collaborated to develop the process that is reflected in the rules, with input from other state agencies, including the Fish and Game Department, the Office of Energy and Planning, and the Attorney General's Office.

The rules were approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) at its meeting on June 17, and the Department adopted the rules to be effective on June 22, 2005. The rules initially will be available through the "Proposed and Recently Adopted Rules" section of the DES website at www.des.state.nh.us/Rulemaking/; once the rules are certified they will be available through the "Publications/ Administrative Rules" section of the DES website at www.des.state.nh.us/rules/desadmin_list.htm. ■

Corrective Action Program recognized by EPA

The NH Corrective Action Program, of the DES Hazardous Waste Remediation Bureau, was recently presented with an Environmental Leadership Award from EPA. The award was presented for meeting environmental indicator goals for both human exposures and groundwater at all eight of its eight high priority corrective action facilities. The program accomplished this through a combination of approaches, which include groundwater management permits and remedial action plans. All eight high priority sites have exposure controls in place making New Hampshire one of the few states in the nation with this distinction. ■



NH Corrective Action Program's David Bowen and John Regan display the Environmental Leadership Award received from EPA.

More upcoming rulemakings

by Gretchen Hamel, Administrator, DES Legal Unit

DES is continuously engaged in adopting, readopting, and amending its rules. To initiate the public comment period on a set of proposed rules, DES files a Rulemaking Notice and Initial Proposal (the actual rules) with the state's Office of Legislative Services for publication in the *New Hampshire Rulemaking Register*.

DES posts all Rulemaking Notices and Initial Proposals on the "Proposed and Recently Adopted Rules" section of its web site, at www.des.state.nh.us/Rulemaking/. However, the best way to stay informed of pending rulemakings is to subscribe to the *Register*. The *Register* contains Rulemaking Notices and other items related to rulemaking for all state agencies. Information on subscribing to the *Register* is available at <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/ruleregsuscript.html>. Current editions of the *Register* are available on-line at <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/2005issues.html>.

Over the next few months, the following DES-related rules will be in process:

- Env-A 2200: Clean Air in State Buildings (formerly He-P 1804)
- Env-A 2300: Asbestos Licensing/Certification (currently He-P 5000)
- Env-C 500: Water Pollution State Revolving Loan Fund
- Env-Wm 100-300, 2100-3700: Solid Waste Management
- Env-Wr 100-700: Dam Program
- Env-Ws 300: Drinking Water Program
- Env-Ws 700: Wastewater Treatment Facility Design Standards
- Env-Ws 1101-1105: Public Bathing Facilities
- Env-WtC 200: Wetlands Council Procedural Rules ■

Asbestos remediation program update

by John F. Liptak, Hazardous Waste Remediation Bureau

The DES Waste Management Division is updating and expanding tools needed by the communities of Nashua and Hudson to safely live with the legacy of an asbestos manufacturing plant that operated in Nashua for nearly a hundred years. By the time the Johns-Manville Corporation ceased manufacturing asbestos-containing building materials in 1985, hundreds of tons of asbestos waste had been distributed to area property owners for use as fill material. As a result, asbestos waste is buried on hundreds of residential, commercial, industrial, and public properties in Nashua and Hudson. Because this situation greatly complicates normally accepted land use management practices, DES is working hard to help the communities meet that challenge.

Asbestos that is properly covered and not disturbed, except under highly controlled circumstances, poses little risk to human health. Therefore, state law requires property owners to keep the asbestos buried and disturb it only under the provisions of an approved work plan using specially licensed contractors.

By updating and expanding various program tools, DES hopes to make it easier for property owners and contractors to comply with the requirements. First, the site filing system has been reorganized and the list of sites has been added to the DES on-line data retrieval system OneStop, which can be accessed at <http://des.nh.gov/OneStop.htm>. Eventually, the related site files will be scanned into the agency's FileNet database, which will also allow the public to view the information on-line. In addition, the sites are being geographically located within DES's OneStop Web Geo-

graphic Information System at www.des.nh.gov/gis/onestop/. Once all of the known sites are located on the GIS system, real estate agents, contractors, prospective buyers, and others will be able to create a map of asbestos sites within an area of concern.

The agency's asbestos web site is also being expanded to make it more user-friendly and informative. The site, www.des.nh.gov/sw/asbestos_1.htm, will include a photo gallery to help property owners and contractors identify the material; various forms and templates for regulatory compliance; lists of licensed contractors; copies of statutes and rules;

best management practices; and links to other helpful web sites. One of the many helpful tools posted on the website is a document entitled "Guidance for Managing Asbestos Disposal Sites," at www.des.nh.gov/asbestosguidance/. It provides an excellent resource for the property owner regarding the identification, characterization, and remediation of asbestos waste sites.

DES also plans to step up its outreach effort to communities most affected by asbestos disposal sites. This outreach will focus on appropriate site characterization, cleanup, and health and safety issues for property owners. For more information, please contact Pam Sprague at (603) 271-2938 or at psprague@des.state.nh.us. ■

On-board diagnostics program update

House Bill 513, which is being finalized by the state Legislature, would make changes to the statewide vehicle safety and emissions inspection program, called the New Hampshire OBD and Safety Testing Program. This inspection program is fully automated and includes 1) safety checks on all vehicles; 2) electronic on-board diagnostics (OBD II) testing for 1996 and newer light duty vehicles; and 3) visual checks of emission control components on pre-1996 non-OBD II equipped vehicles. Under the current program and, as in the past, vehicles that fail the safety portion of the inspection do not receive an inspection sticker. For 1996 and newer vehicles that only fail the OBD part of the inspection, the owner is advised of the problem, but the vehicle does not fail the inspection. Inspection results from stations that are participating in the electronic data collection program (operated by a private contractor) are transmitted to the NH Division of Motor Vehicles. Most stations in the state are participating in this program.

According to the legislation being finalized, the "advisory" period would remain in effect until May 2006, after which vehicles would fail the inspection if they did not pass the OBD test. Other changes being considered include:

- Exempting certain inspection stations from recording data electronically.
- Not requiring electronic recording of safety inspection data on non-OBD II vehicles.
- Adding a process for allowing waivers based on maximum repair costs and economic hardship.

The pending legislation would also establish an OBD II testing advisory committee to review and make recommendations relative to various aspects of the program. As of "press time," the legislation was expected to be acted upon shortly.

For questions on the specific requirements of the inspection program in your area, please contact the Auto Inspections Section of the NH Division of Motor Vehicles at (603) 271-2321. ■

Keeping our environment drug-free

What to do with unused drugs and personal care products

It's cleaning day and you come across a medicine cabinet full of expired prescription and over the counter medications, cosmetics, and personal care products. Safely disposing of these old products is a growing problem. Where once the answer was to flush them, there is now growing concern that these medications are

passing into our waterways with possible harmful effects on both environmental and human health.

When medicines are flushed down a toilet, they can harm the beneficial bacteria that are responsible for breaking down waste in the septic system or at a wastewater treatment plant. Many medicines are not captured or only



partially captured during the treatment process and pass through the system intact. These substances are then released into nearby lakes, rivers or groundwater supplies along with the treated wastewater.

The risks posed to aquatic organisms by continual life-long exposure and to humans by long-term consumption of minute quantities are essentially unknown. The major concerns so far have been the promotion of resistance to antibiotics and disruption of hormones. In addition, some medications and personal care products contain hazardous chemicals or heavy metals, such as mercury, which is used as a preservative.

In 2002, 80 percent of streams sampled by the U.S. Geological Survey (139 rivers in 30 states) showed evidence of medicine, hormones, steroids and personal care products such as soaps and perfumes. The cumulative effects due to the presence of many pharmaceuticals and health care products in the environment have unknown consequences.

Here are some suggestions for disposing of your unwanted pharmaceutical and personal care products.

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DES offers free, confidential OSHA compliance assistance

Complying with federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) rules can be difficult and time consuming for employers, particularly small businesses. So it may come as a surprise that many businesses invite another government entity, the DES Occupational Safety & Health Consultation Service, into the workplace to help them navigate OSHA requirements. On average, 200 New Hampshire workplaces are visited each year for employee safety and health consultation assistance.

While many New Hampshire employers are aware of OSHA regulatory programs, they may not be aware that DES offers a confidential, non-regulatory program to assist them in complying with health and safety laws. It's free; it's confidential; and you choose what type of assistance you would like. That can range from a comprehensive visit involving a review of your safety and health programs along with a walk-through survey, or simply air or noise monitoring to assess worker exposure. The report following the visit only goes to you, the employer – it is not submitted to OSHA or any other agency.

By now you must be asking, "what's the catch," right? If you choose to have the consultant conduct a walk-through in order to identify potential hazards, or if there is an overexposure to a contaminant, you will be asked to abate any problems. You will be given recommendations on how this can be accomplished. You simply fill out the form that comes with the report on how you addressed any potentially serious items. That closes out your visit with us.

When the consultant arrives at your office, you will be given a notebook with information specific to safety and health issues as they apply to your business. This will include sample programs, as well as guidance materials on preventing ergonomic discomfort and reference materials.

The primary purpose of a visit from us is to assist you in meeting your obligations under OSHA. This will result in minimizing workplace injury and illness while improving attendance, productivity and employee morale. This can ultimately save you money and make your business run more efficiently. You have nothing to lose by calling us to find out how we can assist you. All services, including air monitoring, are free, and no fines or citations can be issued. Our staff includes two industrial hygienists and three safety consultants with many years of experience with the program. Visit our web site at www.des.state.nh.us/EOH/OHP or call Teresa at (603) 271-4676 to discuss how we can serve you. ■

Did you know ...?

... that **33%** of the nation's electricity can be consumed by air-conditioning on a hot summer day?

Source: Energy Optimization News

Ohler recognized for work with Granite State Clean Cities

Becky Ohler of the Air Resources Division was a recent winner of the 2005 Clean Cities Northeast Coordinator of the Year Award. Becky has been the coordinator of the Granite State Clean Cities Coalition since its inception in 2000. Although she splits her time with other mobile source related duties at DES, she has been a driving force behind the many accomplishments of the coalition. Ohler actively promotes biodiesel projects across the state. As a testament to her success, the biodiesel programs at the City of Keene, Keene State College, and Cranmore Mountain ski area have received national recognition. She helped Rymes Propane and Oil open five retail biodiesel pumps and helped the University of New Hampshire deploy CNG shuttle vans and fueling infrastructure. Her position at DES has enabled her to be active in many initiatives, such as fuel efficiency and idling reduction. Becky is to be commended for her outstanding efforts to reduce air pollution from the transportation sector by promoting alternative fuels, advanced technology vehicles, and fuel efficiency practices. ■

20th Annual International Coastal Cleanup Day September 17, 2005 11am - 2pm

Last year in New Hampshire, 834 volunteers picked up over 7,900 pounds of debris. This year, more volunteers and coordinators are needed. For information go to www.blueoceansociety.org or call (603) 431-0260. Sponsored by the Blue Ocean Society and the NH Coastal Program.

Pharmaceuticals

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- Contact your local public works department to find out whether these products are accepted at your next household hazardous waste collection event. (Many products are not accepted.)
- Dispose of the waste in household trash. Keep products in their original watertight and child-proof containers. To discourage any unintended use of the product, add a small amount of water to a solid drug or some absorbent material such as kitty litter, sawdust or flour, to liquid medications before recapping. Double-seal the container in another package to disguise the medication or to prevent a glass container from breaking.

For further information on pharmaceutical and personal health care products pollution prevention, please see our fact sheet on-line at www.des.nh.gov/factsheets/sw/sw-33.htm. ■

Mussels

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The zebra mussel is native to the Black and Caspian Seas, and was brought into the United States via the shipping industry as a tag-a-long in ballast water. The zebra mussel is a small black and white striped mussel about the size of a pistachio nut.

DES limnologists Jody Connor and Amy Smagula inspected the boat at Fay's Boat Yard on June 7. The zebra mussels were detected on the boat's engine, engine mounts, speedometer tube, and transducer. New Hampshire currently does not have zebra mussels in any of its waterbodies, but they have infested each of the Great Lakes, Lake Champlain in Vermont, Lake George in New York, and East and West Twin Lakes in Connecticut.

"Thankfully, most of New Hampshire's waterbodies are slightly too acidic to support zebra mussels, but we do have about 28 waterbodies with the right conditions to support their growth. Zebra mussels are also very adaptable, so they may be able to survive in our lakes. After all, we do have a fair amount of native mussels that live in our lakes and ponds," Smagula said. "This should be a warning to all boaters that it is more than just aquatic plants (like milfoil) that can pose significant risks to our surface waters."

DES is grateful for the quick action taken by the staff at the marina. It was only through their vigilance and knowledge of the issue that the boat was not allowed to launch into Lake Winnepesaukee. Unfortunately, not all public access sites are staffed with inspectors. DES urges all boaters, divers, and others who enjoy recreating on our waterbodies to consistently clean and inspect their own gear before and after using any surface water in the state. For more information on exotic species, please contact DES at (603) 271-2248, or go on-line at www.des.nh.gov/WMB/ExoticSpecies/. ■



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